

**Amendments to the Specification:**

In the paragraph starting at page 10, line 2, please make the following change:

Figures ~~1A~~ 1a and ~~1B~~ 1b are schematic plan views of two embodiments of projection systems in accordance with the present invention.

In the paragraph starting at page 10, line 4, please make the following change:

Figures ~~2A~~ 2a and ~~2B~~ 2b are side perspective views of a first and a second PBS and color prism assembly oriented with parallel and perpendicular tilt axes in accordance with the present invention.

In the paragraph starting at page 15, line 9, please make the following change:

The PBS 30 in ~~figure 1~~ figures 1a and 1b is illuminated with light polarized into and out of the page (vertically), so it is nominally an s-polarized beam with respect to the PBS. The vertical direction will be referred to in the future as the y direction, and the direction of light propagation will be referred to as the z direction. The color prism 36 depicted is a so-called Philips Prism. However, the detailed results are expected to be independent of the precise color prism configuration.

In the paragraph starting at page 16, line 26, please make the following change:

Data was first taken to establish the baseline performance of the APF PBS, the mirror simulation of an imager in its dark state, and the mirror with quarter wave film simulation of an imager in its bright state, along with the overall contrast capability of the system of Figure 1 (without a color prism). The resulting data is shown in figures 3 and 4 for two different samples of APF Cartesian PBS. The data indicates a very high level of contrast even *vis-a-vis* the

earlier reported performance of plate-type Cartesian PBS systems. Figure 3 shows the results as a function of wavelength of light at $f/2$, while figure 4 indicates results as a function of $f/\#$. In both cases, the PBS film was contained in a cubic prism made of BK7 glass. In figure 4, the data was taken both with and without an optional clean-up polarizer just before the projection lens, to remove stray light due to a slight haze in the PBS prism. The optional clean-up polarizer is not present for the data in figure 3. These contrast levels indicate that the optical system itself, including the PBS but not the color prism, has a dark state which presents less than 0.1% of the light present in the bright state.

In the paragraph starting at page 19, line 5, please make the following changes:

The peaked nature of the spectral intensity function of the lamp makes final system performance very sensitive to small variations in the spectral contrast performance of the color prism. It is therefore essential to refine the color prism design to ensure that peak spectral contrast wavelength remains at the spectral peaks of lamp intensity after rotating the prism tilt axes so that they are not parallel to that of the PBS. Figure 9 depicts the Maltese band for the perpendicular tilt axes configuration. In keeping with the minimal contrast ratio differences seen between figures 5a and 8a, this image looks much like that of figure 6, rotated by 90°.